

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of August 17, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 5, 6 and 9 - 11 have been examined in this RCE application with the following result: claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as indefinite because of the phrase "or the like" in each of these claims; and claims 5, 6 and 9 - 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Woodward.

Claims 5 and 9 have been amended to remove the objectionable phrase noted above, thereby overcoming the noted rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. As to the art rejection, it is respectfully traversed.

The examiner states in applying Woodward, on page 3 of the Office Action that "...the holes alternating with depressed perforations is equated to Applicant's 'concave and convex portions opposite to and adjacent to each other'." What becomes immediately apparent from a consideration of this statement and the disclosure of the invention here is that each convex portion is surrounded by a concave portion. See the attached annotated sketch of Fig. 2 with the cross-hatching. As can be seen, the cross-hatched regions are not planar as would be the case with Woodward. Instead these regions define concavity which surrounds a convex portion. Such an arrangement is simply not the case in Woodward. Both claims 5 and 9 have been amended to recite this feature. Further, comparing Fig. 2 with Figs 3 and 4 and it becomes quite clear that the surrounding concavity feature does exist. The space between the perforations in Woodward are planar because Woodward starts with a planar surface.

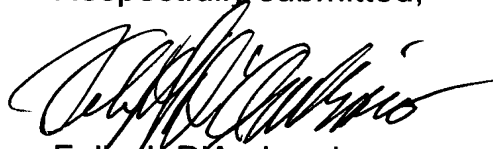
The surrounding concavity feature is a fundamental structural difference which one of ordinary skill in the art would not reach from a consideration of

Woodward.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 5, 6 and 9 - 11 allowed.

Date: Oct. 31, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', written in a cursive style.

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